Press release

Granada awards Met Office weather contract

21 January 2002

Granada has awarded the Met Office a three-year contract to provide weather for its regional ITV franchises.

The Met Office will now provide coverage to Anglia and Meridian under the new contract, which also includes current customers Yorkshire, Border, Tyne Tees and Granada, Manchester.

Controller of Broadcast Operations for Granada, Helen Stevens, said: "Granada is proud of the quality of service provided to our regional viewers, and we are delighted that this contract with the Met Office will allow us to develop and enhance weather presentation for all our broadcast areas."

The news comes as the Met Office's media unit also secured the contract to provide weather services to S4C Wales for a further three years.

The S4C contract means more animated graphics and a local focus for the forecasts, the use of more environmental information and the provision of weather data to the S4C web site.

Based at London Television Centre, the Met Office's media unit was set up in 1989 to specialise in the provision of weather services to TV channels and production companies both home and abroad.

Using the Met Office's unrivalled technology, combined with a specialist team of designers, forecasters, software programmers and presenters, the unit is able to offer a total multimedia package to companies.

This capability means that the Met Office now supplies weather forecasting to 80 per cent* of the UK's independent terrestrial broadcasters, including ITV1, UTV (Ulster television), GMTV, Carlton South-East and LWT, as well as services to foreign television companies.

The Met Office's Controller of Media Presentation, Rex Roskilly, said: "Our long experience in providing weather information for broadcasters, plus our world-leading forecasting technology, means we constantly deliver what our customer needs.

"We are incredibly pleased to be working with Granada and S4C and are looking forward to delivering an innovative, reliable and accurate service for their regional programming and other media requirements."

Both three-year deals commence immediately.

Notes

The Met Office is on call 24 hours a day and offers:

- highest-quality video graphics and special effects, which includes animating and morphing symbols, 3D satellite imagery zooms, 3D cloud fly-throughs over topography maps, flexible panning and global spins
- advice and assistance in selecting and training suitable presenters
- broadcast-ready scripts, press page-ready services, weather captions, graphic sequences or a full studio-based weather forecast service
- viewer perception surveys
- technical support and advice

*80 per cent refers to Met Office weather forecasting across terrestrial television in the UK.

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